

AP GOVERNMENT ARGUMENT ESSAY RUBRIC

Name: _____

Topic: _____

THESIS / CLAIM

Articulates a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes a line of reasoning.

To earn this point, the thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt, rather than merely restating or rephrasing the prompt. The thesis may be located anywhere in the response and this point can be earned even if the claim is not supported by the rest of the essay.

EVIDENCE & SUPPORT FOR ARGUMENT (Up to 3 Points)

NOTE: *These points are progressive, with each point building upon the previous point. If the essay lacks a thesis or claim, it is impossible for the student to earn the second or third evidence point.*

1 Point: Provides **ONE** piece of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt.
(DOES NOT have to support a claim or thesis)

2 Points: The evidence is **SPECIFIC** and supports the claim or thesis.
(DOES NOT have to come from one of the Foundational Documents in the prompt)

3 Points: Provides **TWO** pieces of **SPECIFIC** and **RELEVANT** evidence that support the claim or thesis.
(At least ONE must come from one of the Foundational Documents in the prompt)

/3

REASONING

Explains HOW or WHY the evidence supports the claim or thesis.

In order to earn this point, the response must have a thesis or claim and earn at least TWO evidence points.

OPPOSING OR ALTERNATE PERSPECTIVE

Responds to an opposing or alternate perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.

- **REFUTATION** – Proves an opposing perspective to be false using evidence
- **CONCESSION** – Admits some validity in an opposing argument
- **REBUTTAL** – Credibly argues against an opposing perspective

NOTES:

**TOTAL
POINTS:**

/6

This rubric is based on guidelines found in the 2019 AP US Government and Politics Course and Exam Description.

For more materials, visit tomrichey.net.